

**“TESTIMONY for February 21st, 5P.M. – HB07027CSDE
for the APPROPRIATIONS ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE”**

Submitted By: BLOOMFIELD YOUTH ACTION CLUB

February 21, 2017

**To: Elementary and Secondary Sub-Committee Chairs: Chairwoman Gayle Slossberg,
Chairman Chris Rosario
Appropriations Committee: Chairs Sen. Cathy Osten, Sen. Paul Formica, Rep. Toni Walker, and
Ranking Member Melissa Ziobron**

We are members of the Bloomfield Youth Action Club and we are writing this letter to ask that you continue your support of Youth Service Bureaus in Connecticut. Our club has existed in Bloomfield for 16 years. The founding members created our mission. It states that we are committed to proactive efforts that empower youth in our families, schools and communities. We are involved in leadership and teambuilding trainings that teach us how to advocate, how to organize and participate in youth led programs, how to fundraise, and how to work with other groups that share our common interests. We each volunteer 150-200 hours per year in our community.

Today, we want to share our collective voices because we value and need the programs and services at Bloomfield Social and Youth Services. There are many types of programs and services to be involved with in Bloomfield. Generations of families have participated and it is not uncommon for youth to be participants from elementary school through high school.

At our last meeting we talked about our programs and generated a list of why they are important to us. We believe Youth Services is a safe, welcoming, trusting, comforting, accepting, supportive, empowering and fun place to be. We can be helped through a crisis, counseled, taught new skills, provided opportunities for new experiences, and connected to new resources. We are listened to, our ideas become new programs and services, we feel better prepared for life and we take time to self-reflect. Many youth stay away from trouble because they are involved. Through our activities we build relationships with our peers, adults and senior “Grand Pals” that spend time with us. We contribute directly to the community when we volunteer and know that we are appreciated.

(Page 2 – Bloomfield Youth Action Club Testimony for Elementary and Secondary Sub-Committee - CT Appropriations Committee 2/21/2017)

We believe budget cuts to Youth Service Bureaus would be harmful to CT youth and families. We want to be happy, stable, educated, peer leaders and contributing citizens. Please support us, and all our peers in the 144 towns and cities that have Youth Service Bureaus in CT. Please continue to provide funding for Youth Services in the new budget with no cuts or reductions.

Thank you from all of us in the Bloomfield Youth Action Club!

Sincerely,

Executive Committee Members:

Cheyenne Wallace, Brandon Stewart, Emily Guerrier and Myles Woodward

Club Members:

Rohanna Blackwood, Jada Gonzalez, Arianna Ramsay-Taylor, Chaniel Latney, Mikayla Hayes, Alexander Grossi, Jhalon Heath, Kenroy Hinds, Jr., Chase Williams, Quincy Crosby and Chris Gomes

Bloomfield Youth Action Club
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